

Claims.

Subst 1. A floor covering comprising hard panels each having a top side, said panels having at least on two opposite edges coupling elements made in one piece with the panels and arranged so that several of such panels can be mutually coupled, said coupling elements arranged to enable an interlocking of the coupling elements in a direction perpendicular to a plane including the floor covering, as well as in a direction perpendicular to the respective edges and parallel to the plane including the floor covering, and wherein these coupling elements are configured so that the panels can be rotated into and/or out of one another at least along said opposite edges, and wherein said panels are provided, at least on the said opposite edges, near the top sides, with a part from which has been removed an amount of panel material.

2. The floor covering according to claim 1, wherein each said part is formed as a bevel.

Subst 3. The floor covering according to claim 2, wherein each bevel extends at an angle of 45° in relation to the plane including the panels.

4. The floor covering according to claim 3, wherein each bevel, in the plane of the respective panel, extends over a distance on the order of magnitude of 2 millimeter.

5. The floor covering according to claim 1, wherein under said part, lateral contact surfaces are provided which, when the panels are coupled, fit up to one another at least near the top sides of the panels.

53246. The floor covering according to claim 1, wherein the coupling elements are disconnectable at least in one additional manner other than rotation.

7. The floor covering according to claim 1, wherein the panels are rectangular and said parts and bevels are provided on all four sides of the panels.

8. A floor covering comprising hard panels of laminated construction and each including a core upon which is provided a decorative layer, said panels are rectangular and elongated and are provided with coupling elements at least on two opposite longitudinal edges of the panels, so that several of such panels can be mutually coupled to one another, wherein said coupling elements are arranged to enable an interlocking in a direction perpendicular to a plane including the floor covering, as well as in a direction perpendicular to the respective opposite edges and parallel to a plane including the floor covering, and wherein the coupling elements are configured such that the panels can be coupled and/or uncoupled by means of rotation motion about cooperating longitudinal edges, and wherein the width of the panels (2) is smaller than 17 cm.

9. The floor covering according to claim 8, wherein the panels each have a length which amounts to at least eight times the width of the panel.

10. A floor covering comprising hard panels having a laminated structure, an upper surface and opposed edges, a decorative layer on the upper surface, a bevel having a surface formed on at least one of said

edges near the upper surface, wherein said surface of each said bevel is also provided with a decorative layer.

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11. The floor covering according to claim 10, wherein the decorative layer provided on each said bevel comprises a print.

12. The floor covering according to claim 11, wherein said print is a transfer print created by transfer printing.

13. The floor covering according to claim 10, wherein the floor panels are laminated construction and have a core made of wood based material in which the wood has been ground into particles or fibers, and mixed with a binding agent, and upon which the decorative layer of the upper surface is provided, and wherein each bevel extends into the material of the core.

sub 14. The floor covering according to claim 10, wherein the decorative layer of the top surface contains a paper layer printed with a pattern.

15. The floor covering according to claim 14, wherein the decorative layer represents a print on each bevel, and in that this print is provided with a pattern similar to the decorative layer of the upper surface.

16. The floor covering according to claim 10, wherein a moisture-proof, impermeable decorative print layer is provided on each bevel.

17. The floor covering according to claim 1, wherein each bevel extends at an angle so that an imaginary extension of the bevel is located

outside the contour of the respective edge section of the panel at which the bevel is provided or at most just touches it.

18. A floor covering comprising laminated hard panels having an MDF or HDF based core and a bottom side, wherein the panels are each separately provided with an underlayer attached to the bottom side, said underlayer being polyethylene or polyethylene based material.

19. The floor covering according to claim 1, wherein the panels are laminated and have a core which consists of MDF or HDF.

20. The floor covering according to claim 1, wherein the panels have a minimum thickness of 9 mm.

21. The floor covering according to claim 1, wherein the panels have a minimum thickness of 10 mm.

22. The floor covering according to claim 1, wherein at least on a plurality of said opposite edges, coupling elements made in one piece with the panels are provided, such that several of such panels can be mutually coupled, said coupling elements configured to be interlocking in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the floor covering, as well as in a direction perpendicular to said edges and parallel to a plane including the floor covering, said coupling elements having any one of or a combination of two or more of any of the following characteristics:

that they are provided on panels which are rectangular and have two pairs of opposite edges, and wherein said coupling elements are provided on both pairs of opposite edges;

that at least for a plurality of said opposite edges the coupling elements are configured and arranged so that they may be assembled according to one of the following procedures:

at least by shifting the panels towards one another while they are located generally in a common plane;

exclusively by shifting the panels towards one another while they are located generally in a common plane;

at least by rotating the panels along a respective set of opposite edges;

exclusively by rotating the panels along a respective set of opposite edges;

by shifting the panels towards one another in a generally common plane as well as by rotating them relative to each other;

that, at least for a plurality of edges, said coupling elements are arranged to enable uncoupling according to any of the following procedures:

at least by shifting the panels out of one another in a direction perpendicular to the edges;

exclusively by shifting the panels out of one another in a direction perpendicular to the edges;

at least by rotating the panels along the respective edges;

exclusively by rotating the panels along the respective edges;

by shifting the panels out of one another in a direction perpendicular to the edges as well as by rotating them relative to each other;

that the coupling elements are of the type that comprise a tongue and a groove on the one hand, and a locking device which

enables a specific interlocking at least in a direction perpendicular to the edges of the coupled panels and parallel to the plane of the panels on the other hand;

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that the coupling elements as defined in the preceding paragraph include a lower lip which defines the bottom side of the groove, as seen from a cross section of the panel, and that said lip extends past an upper lip of the panel, and wherein the locking device comprises parts on said lower lip defining the bottom side of the groove on the one hand, and of one or more portions of the bottom side of the tongue cooperating with the latter on the other hand;

that said tongue and groove are made such that when two of such panels are freely shifted towards one another in a generally common plane, the tongue automatically is located in the groove;

that the panels, when coupled, are interlocked without or substantially without any play.